

SENATE BILL 2967

By Gilbert

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 21, relative to the condemnation of billboards.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-21-104(b), is amended by deleting the language "seventy-five dollars (\$75.00)" and by substituting instead the language "one hundred dollars (\$100)".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 54-21-104(c), is amended by deleting the language "thirty dollars (\$30.00)" and by substituting instead the language "fifty dollars (\$50.00)".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 54, Chapter 21, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section to be appropriately designated:

Section _____. (a) There is hereby established a general fund reserve to be known as the billboard condemnation fund. Moneys in the fund shall only be expended pursuant to appropriations made in the general appropriations act. Moneys from the fund may be expended to fund condemnations of existing billboards along scenic highways, as established under chapter 17 of this title, pursuant to Section 54-21-108 and Section 54-17-108. Any revenues deposited in this reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for purposes consistent with this part, and shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30. Any excess revenues on interest earned by such revenues shall not revert on any June 30, but shall remain available for appropriation in

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subsequent fiscal years. Any appropriation from such reserve shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.

(b) Revenues from the twenty-five dollar (\$25) permit fee increase imposed by this act in Section 54-21-104(b) and the twenty dollar (\$20) renewal fee increase imposed by this act in Section 54-21-104(c) shall be deposited in the fund.

(c) The department of transportation shall administer all condemnations and related expenses through the fund. After soliciting input from the public in each of the department's regions in the state, the commissioner shall develop a priority listing of billboards for condemnation. The listing shall provide for an equitable distribution of moneys from the condemnation fund throughout the department's regions based upon the number of billboards eligible for condemnation under this act in each region.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1998, the public welfare requiring it.